

# **Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee**

## **Summary Minutes**

**March 17, 2005**

**Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Meeting Location:**

**Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room**

**SPU Operations Control Center**

**2700 Airport Way South**

**Seattle, WA**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Bruce Bachen (SPU), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Dennis Moore (MIT), Frank Urabeck (TU), Chuck Wischman (PSA), Bill Robinson (Public), Hans Berge (KC), and Michael Kern (LLTK)

**Other Participants:** Dave Seiler, Joan Thomas (WDFW), Dr. Tom Quinn, Jenny Newell (UW), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

**Public:** *None present*

### **Call to order**

*Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM*

### **Approval of agenda**

*Phyllis asked for an update on the Cedar River water supply conditions. It was added to the information and discussion section. Members unanimously approved the agenda.*

### **Meeting minutes review**

*The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from February 15, 2005 with a minor change to the list of members present.*

### **Sockeye monitoring and research**

#### ***Sockeye movement and distribution study***

*Bruce welcomed Dr. Tom Quinn and Jenny Newell to the AFC meeting. Jenny provided the AFC with presentation of her work completed in 2003 and some results from 2004.*

*She noted the presentation would be posted on her website at:*

*<http://students.washington.edu/jenny2/AFC%202005.pdf>*

#### ***WDFW 2004 smolt analysis***

*Bruce introduced this item and asked Dave S. to discuss the report with members. Dave noted that in 2004 over 1,000 otoliths were collected from smolts in Lake Union. The otoliths were collected on three days over a three week period and the proportion of hatchery fish did not vary much with each sample. He felt the samples were representative and demonstrated a good mixed population. Ultimately this could mean that rather than collecting fry from the Cedar River trap, smolts could be sampled at Lake Union. Under the adaptive management program, this work could be a powerful*

tool for evaluating hatchery release strategies. Sampling smolts in Lake Union would also allow the hatchery to quickly make a course correction if needed.

### ***WDFW otolith report***

*Bruce briefly discussed some of the report's conclusions with members. The report identified differences attributable to hatchery origin for some comparisons of female size and in spawning distribution, but did not find differences in run timing, male size or age at return. He noted that because of limitations in the sampling design, references to survival rates had been removed from the draft report. He noted the study did provide some useful information on the effects of release location and returning adults such as upper river fry releases tend to result in upper river adult returns and lower river releases tend to distribute throughout the river.*

### **Interim program for chinook, coho, and steelhead**

#### ***Status of 2005 funded projects***

*Bruce reported the LMA Parties approved the recommendations by AFC for the interim program. As a result, \$86,700 would be provided to the University of Washington for the first year of a two-year study to quantify predation on juvenile steelhead, Chinook, and coho in nearshore regions of Lake Washington. The LMA Parties also approved \$38,088 for the final year of the WDFW study looking at genetic relationships among anadromous and nonanadromous *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (rainbow trout and steelhead) in Cedar River and Lake Washington.*

#### ***Discussion of allocation of remaining 2005 funds***

*Bruce noted that a number of projects were on the table for consideration for remaining 2005 funding under the Interim Program. Those projects included: a feasibility study for estimating abundance of cutthroat trout through a mark-recapture study in Lake Washington, a peer review of the WDFW *O. mykiss* genetic study, and the operation of a steelhead trap at the Landsburg Dam.*

#### ***Feasibility Study***

*Frank U. moved to approve the \$13,287 feasibility for estimating abundance of cutthroat trout through a mark-recapture study in Lake Washington by UW. Bill R. seconded the vote. The vote was unanimously approved. Bruce noted that the remaining approximately \$13,000 could be considered as contingency funding for other work in 2005.*

#### ***Discuss schedule for 2006 recommendations***

*Bruce proposed moving up the RFP process so decisions are made by December instead of February to allow more time for investigators to begin work as early as is necessary in 2006. Phyllis M. agreed but felt that an even higher priority should be to narrow our list of priorities to ensure that proposals address the most important needs.*

#### **Public comment**

*None*

## **Sockeye hatchery**

### ***Status report on Cedar River Hatchery – Brodie Antipa***

*Brodie reported that hatchery had a few releases left. They did not encounter any problems with IHN and the season would wrap up around April 1st. The total fry release was about 15 million.*

### ***Cedar River fish counts and 2006 sockeye harvest***

*Dave S. reported the outmigration was strong until earlier this week and the outmigration of natural fry may be over 30 million. The trap is capturing a high proportion of outmigrant fry because a gravel bar in the lower river is directing the main channel into the trap and providing a high catch efficiency. He noted at times they were catching up to 1,000 fry per minute.*

### ***SEIS status***

*Bruce updated members on the SEIS. He noted the hearing took place last week and comments were due next week. Frank U. said the hearing went well and there was unanimous support for the hatchery. Folks felt the science was done well and they were frustrated that things have taken so long. Hans B. asked if the comments are in public record. Bruce said they would be. Brodie A. said it was good to hear support for the project from such a broad spectrum of people. Many of the comments had a very human element and people noted what the opportunity to fish for sockeye meant to their families.*

## **Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 1: 15*